

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH
GROW | PRAY | SERVE



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Welcome!

Series: First Comes Love

Message: How to Have a Good Fight

Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Gracious God, for better or for worse, we recognize that conflicts are inevitable. You have made us unique and different and sometimes we clash with each other, rather than compliment each other. We pray now for the patience and power to work through our differences. To attack problems and not each other. We praise you for giving us an example of how to do exactly what we need to do in Jesus Christ. Jesus is our model. Alleluia and Amen.

ICEBREAKER: If the arguments you've had in your life were on television, would they appear on Oprah, Dr. Phil, Jerry Springer, or Saturday Night Live?

INTRODUCTION: Conflict is common in relationships. In the first three chapters of Paul's letter to the faithful in Ephesus, he laid out the theological foundations for why and how we should seek to live the Christian life. His method was simple: belief-value-behavior. Beliefs: what we think is true. Values: what are our hearts learning to love. Behavior: what we actually do in our lives. His belief was that unity would be the end result of aligning these three elements, despite conflict and disagreement.

BIBLE STUDY: Read Ephesians 4:21-27 (The Living Bible)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. How does what we believe to be true affect what we value? How does what we value shape our behavior? Do you think there is actually a connection between belief, values, and behavior? Why or why not?
3. In the message, Pastor Watson offered three prerequisites to having a "good" fight: connect with Christ, pray about it, and set some ground rules. Which of these three would you deem most important for constructive conflict resolution and why?
4. Pastor Watson provided **10 Ground Rules for a Good Fight** in the message: 1) never compare, 2) never use absolutes, 3) never fight in the bedroom, 4) never threaten, 5) never change lanes, 6) never play the reporter, 7) never be a scorekeeper, 8) never become a psychologist, 9) never be a historian, and 10) never quit. Which one of these ground rules would be most difficult for you in a conflict? Which would be the easiest for you to observe?



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5. Pastor Watson quoted Gary Chapman's **Five Apology Languages**: 1) expressing regret, 2) accepting responsibility, 3) making restitution, 4) planned change, and 5) requesting forgiveness. On a scale of 1-10 (1=easy, 10=impossible), how difficult is it for you to be apologize? Of the five, which "apology language" do you find most difficult to offer? Which "apology language" do you find most difficult to accept?

CHALLENGE: *Is there a relationship in your life that needs reconciliation? Pray about it and ask God to give you the grace and opportunity to open that door and begin that process.*

SERVE: Pray over Ephesians 4:21-27 this week. **Praise** God for the power to grow through conflict and to learn to disagree without becoming disagreeable. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. **Respond.** Write it down, live it out, give Him praise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also "find, follow and like" us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/myspbc) and YouTube (www.youtube.com/myspbc). Subscribe to our 7:14 prayers at 855.518.2394. Download our Mobile App from your App Store (myspbc).

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472
EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): *Under Prayerful Consideration*
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177
EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)
EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000
EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)